

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel, without prejudice, claims 29-34, and 67-74; amend claims 39-41, 47, 49, 54, 60, 65, 66, underlined material for addition, strike-out or double bracketed material for deletion; and, add new claims 75-89 as follows:

Claims 1-38 (Cancelled)

39. (Currently amended) A weapon grip assembly for facilitating grasping and support of a forward portion of a weapon, said weapon grip assembly comprising a base assembly supported by a handle, and a collar operatively interposed between said base assembly and said handle, said base assembly comprising a post having a clamp end adapted to mechanically and independently retain opposingly paired ~~clamps~~ clamp portions for selective attachment to a forward portion of the weapon.

40. (Currently amended) The weapon grip assembly of claim 39 wherein each ~~of said clamps~~ clamp portion is separately pivotable with respect to said clamp end of said post.

41. (Currently amended) The weapon grip assembly of claim 39 wherein said ~~clamps~~ clamp portions are retained at said clamp end of said post for individual pivot motion with respect thereto.

42. (Previously presented) The weapon grip assembly of claim 41 wherein said post is receivable in a cavity of said handle.

43. (Previously presented) The weapon grip assembly of claim 42 wherein said post is adapted to be reversibly drawn into said cavity of said handle.

44. (Previously presented) The weapon grip assembly of claim 43 wherein said post includes a threaded segment adjacent said clamp end.

45. (Previously presented) The weapon grip assembly of claim 44 wherein said threaded segment of said post is reversibly advanceable within said cavity of said handle upon rotation of said handle with respect to said base assembly.

46. (Previously presented) The weapon grip assembly of claim 45 wherein said handle includes a capped end.

47. (Currently amended) The weapon grip assembly of claim 39 wherein each of said clamps clamp portion is independently biased with respect to said clamp end of said post.

48. (Previously presented) The weapon grip assembly of claim 47

wherein said post is reversibly received within a recess of said handle.

49. (Currently amended) The weapon grip assembly of claim 48 wherein said ~~clamps~~ clamp portions pivotingly respond to axial positioning of said collar relative to the post of said base assembly.

50. (Previously presented) The weapon grip assembly of claim 49 wherein said collar surrounds a segment of said post.

51. (Previously presented) The weapon grip assembly of claim 49 wherein said clamp end of said post is surrounded by a sidewall of said collar.

52. (Previously presented) The weapon grip assembly of claim 49 wherein said clamp end of said post is received with a sidewall of said collar.

53. (Previously presented) The weapon grip assembly of claim 39 further comprising a latching assembly for selectively affixing said collar to said handle.

54. (Currently amended) The weapon grip assembly of claim [[52]] 53

wherein said latching assembly selectively locks said clamps in a preselect state of closure.

55. (Previously presented) The weapon grip assembly of claim 39 wherein said collar includes a latching assembly for cooperative locking engagement of said collar with a portion of said handle.

56. (Previously presented) The weapon grip assembly of claim 39 wherein a seal is formed between a portion of said collar and said clamp end of said post.

57. (Previously presented) The weapon grip assembly of claim 56 wherein a resilient element is interposed between a base of said collar and said clamp end of said post so as to form said seal.

58. (Previously presented) The weapon grip assembly of claim 39 wherein said collar is adapted to permit debris egress.

59. (Previously presented) The weapon grip assembly of claim 39 wherein said base assembly further comprise an alignment mechanism configured for operative engagement with said collar.

60. (Currently amended) The weapon grip assembly of claim 39 wherein said collar is adapted to operatively ~~supporting~~ support an

auxiliary device.

61. (Previously presented) The weapon grip assembly of claim 60 wherein said collar is adapted to operatively support a target illumination device.

62. (Previously presented) The weapon grip assembly of claim 39 wherein said collar is equipped with a bracket for supporting an auxiliary device.

63. (Previously presented) The weapon grip assembly of claim 39 wherein said collar includes an upper surface configured to engage portions of the forward portion of the weapon adjacent an interface between said clamps and the forward portion of the weapon.

64. (Previously presented) The weapon grip assembly of claim 62 wherein said a portion of said handle is adapted for locking integration with a portion of said collar.

65. (Currently amended) A weapon grip assembly for facilitating grasping and support of a forward portion of a weapon, said weapon grip assembly comprising a base assembly supported by a handle, said base assembly comprising ~~clamps~~ clamp portions adapted to be secured to a forward portion of the weapon, ~~each of said clamps~~

clamp portion being separately pivotable with respect to said base assembly.

66. (Currently amended) The weapon grip assembly of claim 65 wherein each of said ~~clamps~~ clamp portions are cooperatively united at an end thereof to a portion of said base via a pin.

Claims 67-74 (Cancelled)

75. (New) A vertical grip assembly for attachment to a weapon forend, the grip assembly comprising a handle, a clamp base assembly extending from said handle, a collar interposed between a portion of said clamp base assembly and said handle, and clamp segments, each clamp segment of said clamp segments pivotably supported at a clamp end of said clamp base assembly so as to extend therefrom, said collar including upper and lower collar portions, said lower collar portion received upon a top of said handle, said upper collar portion receiving said clamp end of said clamp base assembly and characterized by first and second sets of opposingly paired side walls united by a floor, each side wall of a set of said first and second sets of opposingly paired side walls includes a beveled top edge for engagement with a clamp segment of said clamp segments, each clamp segment of said clamp segments characterized by a weapon receiving surface and a clamp segment

free end characterized by a profiled tip, said weapon receiving surface comprising a concave segment, said clamp segments securable about the forward portion of the weapon as said clamp end of said clamp base assembly is advanced within said upper collar portion of said collar.

76. (New) The grip assembly of claim 75 wherein said each clamp segment of said clamp segments pivotably supported at a clamp end of said clamp base assembly is pivotably supported by a pin.

77. (New) The grip assembly of claim 75 further comprising an accessory bracket supported by said collar.

78. (New) The grip assembly of claim 75 further comprising an accessory bracket supported by said upper collar portion of said collar.

79. (New) The grip assembly of claim 75 further comprising an accessory bracket supported by one of said each side wall of a set of said first and second sets of opposingly paired side walls includes a beveled top edge for engagement with a clamp segment of said clamp segments.

80. (New) The grip assembly of claim 75 wherein said handle

includes spaced apart circumferential grooves.

81. (New) The grip assembly of claim 75 wherein said handle includes a lower compartment.

82. (New) The grip assembly of claim 75 wherein said handle includes an upper compartment.

83. (New) The grip assembly of claim 75 wherein said clamp base assembly includes a post depending from said clamp end thereof.

84. (New) The grip assembly of claim 83 wherein said post is received within an upper portion of said handle.

85. (New) The grip assembly of claim 83 wherein said post includes a threaded portion for integration with said handle.

86. (New) The grip assembly of claim 83 wherein said collar is received upon said post.

87. (New) The grip assembly of claim 83 wherein said floor of said clamp end of said clamp base includes a through hole for receipt of said post.

88. (New) A grip assembly for attachment to a forward portion of a weapon, the grip assembly comprising a handle, a clamp base assembly extending from said handle, a collar interposed between a portion of said clamp base assembly and said handle, and clamp segments, each clamp segment of said clamp segments pivotably supported at a clamp end of said clamp base assembly so as to extend therefrom, each clamp segment of said clamp segments characterized by a weapon receiving surface and a clamp segment free end characterized by a profiled tip, said weapon receiving surface comprising a concave segment, said clamp segments securable about the forward portion of the weapon as said clamp end of said clamp base assembly is advanced within an upper portion of said collar.

89. (New) A grip assembly for attachment to a forward portion of a weapon, the grip assembly comprising a handle, a clamp base assembly extending from said handle, a collar interposed between a portion of said clamp base assembly and said handle, and clamp segments, each clamp segment of said clamp segments pivotably supported at a clamp end of said clamp base assembly so as to extend therefrom, said collar including upper and lower collar portions, said lower collar portion received upon a top of said handle, said upper collar portion receiving said clamp end of said clamp base assembly and characterized by first and second sets of

oppositingly paired side walls united by a floor, each side wall of a set of said first and second sets of oppositingly paired side walls includes a beveled top edge for engagement with a clamp segment of said clamp segments, said clamp segments securable about the forward portion of the weapon as said clamp end of said clamp base assembly is advanced within said upper collar portion of said collar.